

§ 8304. Implementing the Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936

- (a)** In this section, "high seas" means waters seaward of the Boundary Line.
- (b)** The Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936 (International Labor Organization Draft Convention Numbered 53, on the minimum requirement of professional capacity for masters and officers on board merchant vessels), as ratified by the President on September 1, 1938, with understandings appended, and this section apply to a documented vessel operating on the high seas except—
- (1)** a public vessel;
 - (2)** a wooden vessel of primitive build, such as a dhow or junk;
 - (3)** a barge; and
 - (4)** a vessel of less than 200 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title.
- (c)** A person may not engage or employ an individual to serve as, and an individual may not serve as, a master, mate, or engineer on a vessel to which this section applies, if the individual does not have a license issued under section 7101 of this title authorizing service in the capacity in which the individual is to be engaged or employed.
- (d)** A person (including an individual) violating this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$100.
- (e)** A license issued to an individual to whom this section applies is a certificate of competency.
- (f)** A designated official may detain a vessel to which this section applies (by written order served on the owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge of the vessel) when there is reason to believe that the vessel is about to proceed from a port of the United States to the high seas in violation of this section or a provision of the convention described in subsection (b) of this section. The vessel may be detained until the vessel complies with this section. Clearance may not be granted to a vessel ordered detained under this section.
- (g)** A foreign vessel to which the convention described in subsection (b) of this section applies, on the navigable waters of the United States, is subject to detention under subsection (f) of this section, and to an examination that may be necessary to decide if there is compliance with the convention.
- (h)** The owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge of a vessel detained under subsection (f) or (g) of this section may appeal the order within 5 days as provided by regulation.
- (i)** An officer or employee of the Customs Service may be designated to enforce this section.